874 THE TECHNICAL or Trade School is one of forty such schools in the country. The Minister of Education has ordered this number to be doubled. The boys come from all districts and can go on to a higher grade Trade School. There is a still higher grade of school in Roumania called the Academy, from which pupils are turned out as teachers.

IN THIS TRADE School at Curtea de Argeş the boys live in and pay an inclusive fee of 4,500 lei per annum; those attending as day boys pay only 760 lei per annum. Two-thirds of these fees must be paid at the beginning of the session; the cost of material is not included.

Boys can enter between the ages of 11 and 15; the number taken is 100. They are divided into four classes. The subjects taught are Woodwork, Pottery and Tailoring. In woodwork, when the boys leave they are considered to have qualified in all the processes of house-building and furnishing.

[32?] In pottery, the chief industry of this town, the *traditional* shapes, colouring and decoration (mostly of ships) are charming, but *modern* designs and shapes are less good and often tasteless.

[35?] THE CLASSROOMS are airy and heated by stoves. The boys sit in couples. The walls are hung with pictures of Roumanian history and of architectural interest, e.g. York Minster, Notre Dame, the Forum, etc. Each room has a religious picture. The woodwork room is large; each bench has a wooden vice; the wood is neatly stacked on a large shelf a few feet from the roof. Few tools were seen, as they were being prepared for next session. There is a room set apart for exhibiting the work done. All articles are for sale, and the pupil gets most of the money. Both the french polishing and the chip carving reach an excellent standard.

[?] THE MILITARY SERVICE required from boys attending Trade Schools is of one year's duration only. There are in the country five Higher Trade Schools—at Bucureşti, Braşov, Craiova, Iassi and Turgul Mureş.

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661 mission of 30 million lei had been pocketed, amounting to 25% of the total amount of the order. This had been confirmed by the Royal Commissary, while General Hentescu had asserted that there were no orders placed without commissions being received. The Minister of War, General Mardarescu, was directly involved in this affair and he should be made to accept full responsibility. The latter's defence was exceedingly lame. The "Cuvantul" of 7th July, 1927, relates how it had been decided to repair the defective motors of the aeroplanes. After remaining for two years at Bucarest they were shipped to France, where on examination they were found to have deteriorated to such an extent that they were useless. They were nevertheless superficially repaired and shipped back, at a total cost to the State of twelve million lei, wasted money as the paper declares. In its issue of 28th Sept., 1927, the same paper, commenting on the mortal accidents which recently befell Rumanian aviators, vehemently condemns the Liberals for supplying the army with such worthless planes, and accuses the ministers of being actuated solely by the desire to pocket commissions and of showing no consideration for the human lives that are imperilled. The order for these aeroplanes had been placed by the Ministry in spite of the advice of the Technical Committee.

During the year 1929, the press enlarged on the contract for the supply of sanitary material, amounting to 400 truckloads. Many irregularities were pointed out, and the question came to be referred to as the "syringe affair." Such grave derelictions of duty on the part of those in authority have resulted in the army being placed in a state [701] of utter unpreparedness, as was revealed by a speech of the Minister of War, General Mircescu, delivered in the Chamber on September, 1927, and in the course of which he was reported to have said: "We have no aeroplanes, no rifles, no machine guns; neither poisonous gases, nor gas masks; we have no artillery, we have no tanks; we have no navy, even sufficient for our defence. No seaplanes. We have not enough non-commissioned officers; our reserves are not trained; we have no horses, no equipment, no medicinal supplies. We just have enough troops to marshal at parades

B. LABOUR POSITION DURING THE WAR

1. Military Conscription

701 The age limits for mobilisation are 19–50, while youths from 17–18 are liable for pre-military training.

During 1942 there have been several indications of the strain which further mobilisation was putting on Rumania's manpower; for example, in April 1942 the sentences on political prisoners were suspended and they were called into the army, while from July of that year onwards there has been a constant revision of previous exemptions and a tightening of control over the granting of leave and call-up. Military service, which previously had been obligatory for Rumanian citizens only, was made compulsory for all non-nationals* resident in the country, and further a decree was passed mobilising all Rumanians of military age resident abroad. [563]

It is calculated that it has never been possible for Rumania to have more than 800,000 men properly equipped under arms at one period. The actual strength of the army has fluctuated considerably during the last two years, as has the number on the eastern front, but a reasonable average figure would be 500,000, of which 200,000 on the eastern front.

727 Rumanian casualties are difficult to assess. 464 One estimate at the end of 1941 put casualties at 150,000, while total casualties up to May 1943 have been estimated at 350,000. Military mobilisation will probably have meant a loss of some 800,000 men to the general labour supply.

2. Recruitment for Germany

464 The recruitment of workers for Germany has 167 been on a small scale, which is not surprising, as Rumania's military contribution has been considerable, and the military mobilisation has already reduced the supply of labour needed for the Rumanian armament industry to a minimum. Such labour as might be available for export is unskilled and therefore of less value to Germany. The total number of Rumanian workers in Germany in December, 1942, was estimated at 14,000. Of these 10,000 were young Rumanians 18–19, who were recruited at the end of 1941 to be "trained" in German metallurgical factories. 1,000 are women employed as domestic servants, and the rest are mainly unskilled general workers.

3. Foreign Workers in Rumania

648 In addition to the German administrators and 463 directors, who are in certain of the key positions in Rumanian industry, there is also evidence of skilled German technicians in Rumanian armament factories. In 1942 there was a nucleus of the German Todt organisation, and Italian builders, in the country.

727 About 40,000 ~~Russian prisoners~~ of war are employed, chiefly in agriculture, though also in mining and navvying work.

C. GENERAL LABOUR DEVELOPMENTS

464 In 1937 the average unemployment figure was 722 12,000. The dislocation of trade and industry on the outbreak of war temporarily caused a general increase of unemployment, which was rapidly absorbed by the military call-up and increased activity in the armaments industry. In March

* The German minority was already liable for military service, either in the Rumanian or German army and in December, 1942, it was announced that there were 30,000 *Volksdeutsche* in the Rumanian Army.

[55a]